

## Outcome Assessment Information Set (OASIS) Information

**Date:** September 1, 1998

**To:** Home Health Agencies

**From:** Judy Fryback, Director, Bureau of Quality Assurance

**DSL-BQA-98-047**

**HHA - 18**

Attached is information we have received from the federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) web site regarding the Outcome Assessment Information Set (OASIS). This information includes the first edition of the:

- [OASIS Line, Vol.1, No. 1, August 1998](#)
- [OASIS Overview](#), [OASIS Regulations](#), and *OASIS Questions and Answers*.

OASIS means Outcome Assessment Information Set and will be part of the new home health conditions of participation. OASIS is a tool developed for HCFA by the University of Colorado, Center for Policy Research. The purpose of OASIS is to develop outcome-based quality improvement measures for home health.

HCFA anticipates publishing the OASIS regulation within the near future. When this regulation becomes effective, home health agencies will be required to integrate OASIS into their comprehensive assessments. This will require that agencies use the standard core assessment data set, i.e., the "Outcome and Assessment Information Set" (OASIS), when evaluating adult, non-maternity patients. Home health agencies are encouraged to consider pilot testing usage of the data elements of the OASIS 1-B form as part of their assessments before the regulations are published.

Home health agencies also need to consider their software and Internet capabilities relative to OASIS information collection and transmission. Effective January 1999, home health agencies will be required to report OASIS data to the state for all adult non-maternity patients.

HCFA has established a web site for providing information on OASIS. The address is [www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasishmp.htm](http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasishmp.htm). [replaced by <http://cms.hhs.gov/oasis/hhoview.asp>]. The web site currently contains general information regarding OASIS, draft specifications for electronic submission of OASIS B-1 information which can be downloaded, as well as pdf (portable document format) versions of all components of the OASIS data set.

If you have further questions or concerns, please direct them to Richard Betz, OASIS Automation Coordinator at (608) 264-9898 or Barbara Woodford, OASIS Educational Coordinator at (715) 855-7310.

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## OASIS OVERVIEW

The following information was provided by Mary Weakland of HCFA during the All State MDS Teleconference on March 17.

OASIS means Outcomes Assessment Information Set and will be part of the new conditions of participation. OASIS is a tool developed for HCFA by the University of Colorado, Center for Health Policy Research. The initial purpose was not to create an assessment instrument, but to develop outcome based quality improvement measures. It is not a comprehensive assessment instrument like the MDS, but core items that should be integrated into the forms used by the HHAs.

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OASIS was published in 1985 and currently there are 27 states with HHAs involved in a demonstration project using OASIS.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 created a provision for a PPS system for HHAs which will be effective with the first cost reporting period after October 1, 1999.

Data set items must be the exact language that HCFA published in the NPRM. Agencies may integrate the items in such a way that best suits the agency's assessment system. Agencies can put in other items to round out the assessment tool.

The assessment must be completed by an RN, a Physical Therapist, or a Speech Therapist and the timing of the assessment is as follows: 1) Start of Care; 2) Follow up at recertification period of 60 days (57-62 days to complete); 3) Transfer to inpatient facility; 4) Readmitted after inpatient admission; 5) Discharge or Death at home.

The HAVEN system being developed by FU Associates is the electronic method used for data input. HAVEN (for OASIS) is similar to the RAVEN system for MDS. IFMC is developing the

Database Management System similar to the MDS System.

## HCFA Web Site

A HCFA website with OASIS information is available at [http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasis\\_hmp.htm](http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasis_hmp.htm). A draft copy of the edit specifications and OASIS forms are available there. Commonly asked questions and answers are also available, as well as, a "What's New" button for timely announcements. There is a link set up from the MDS Web site to the OASIS Web site. Please visit the OASIS Web site often to get the latest information.

## Hello from the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (IFMC)

IFMC is a health care company that provides national health care related services and information systems for the Federal, State, and private arenas. The IFMC team consists of the System Coordination Team, the

Application Development Team, the Data Support Team, Hardware Support Team, and the Help Desk Team.

We are very excited to have the opportunity to contribute and be part of this project.

Within the IFMC team, the System Coordination staff will be responsible for documentation, testing, training, communication with State Agency personnel, and providing OASIS subject matter expertise.

The documentation responsibilities include creating, maintaining, and providing the State Agencies with on-line help for the OASIS Data Management System, the System Administration Manual, Home Health Agency User's Guide, newsletters, and memos.

We plan to publish and distribute a bi-monthly newsletter and utilize numbered memorandums that will assist you in locating any information we have provided. We encourage all State Agencies to submit articles for the newsletters. Our plan is to send most information via e-mail. If e-mail is not possible at a site, we will fax the information. Large packages and CDs will be sent overnight.

mail.

The Application Development Team is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the State Agency software edit and management components.

The Database Support Team supports the Oracle database where the OASIS data will be stored, in addition to supporting system backups, Oracle trouble shooting, and maintenance issues.

The Hardware Support Team will assist with any hardware related issues, such as problems with servers, modems, etc.

The Help Desk Team should be your first contact when you have questions. If the Help Desk does not have the answers, they will get you in touch with the people who can help you.

If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact the Help Desk.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As questions arise about **OASIS**, you may contact the OASIS Help Desk. We will use this section of the newsletter to publish the answers to common problems relayed to the Help Desk.

Where are we?

The Help Desk is in West Des Moines, IA.

What hours can I reach Help Desk?

You can reach the Help Desk Monday - Friday 8am - 8pm Eastern time.

How do I contact the Help Desk?

Phone: 888-477-7876

Fax: 888-477-7871

## KEY UPCOMING EVENTS

The annual RAI/MDS/OASIS Coordinator=s Conference will be held August 31 - September 4, 1998 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore. This training will be of value to the OASIS Automation Coordinator and the OASIS Educational

Coordinator. We hope you are planning to attend.

## General Announcements

The next All State Teleconference will be August 18, 1998 at 1pm EDT. You may dial 612/368-4500 to connect to the teleconference. The first hour of the call will be for MDS issues. The second hour of the call will be for OASIS issues.

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